



## State of Connecticut Department of Correction

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**Contact:** Office of Public Information  
**Director of External Affairs:** Karen Martucci  
**Public Information Officer:** Andrius Banevicius  
**Telephone:** (860) 692-7780 **Fax:** (860) 692-7783  
[doc.pio@ct.gov](mailto:doc.pio@ct.gov)

### For Immediate Release

# Second Department of Correction Offender Tests Positive for the COVID-19 Virus

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

The second Department of Correction (DOC) offender has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The offender is a 24-year old male incarcerated at the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center in Uncasville.

The individual began exhibiting symptoms associated with the coronavirus on Thursday, March 26, 2020, and was removed and isolated from the rest of the facility's population. He was subsequently tested, and a positive result was confirmed.

The individual's name is being withheld due to HIPAA regulations.

The offender is housed in the Corrigan building of the facility. Prior to developing symptoms, the affected offender was in a two-person cell. The cellmate was subsequently tested for the presence of the virus. In addition to the cellmate, eight other offenders at the facility have also been tested for possible exposure, and the Department is awaiting results of those tests.

A review of which staff members the offender interacted with has been conducted and proper notifications are being made.

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To further limit the spread of the virus, and for the protection of the offender population, the Department of Correction has placed the entire Corrigan-Radgowski facility on lockdown status effective immediately.

The Agency will continue to reassess the developing situation and revise its operational plans appropriately.

“We are resolute in the belief that the Department’s mitigation efforts, along with the efforts of our incredible staff, will allow us to weather this storm,” said DOC Commissioner Rollin Cook. “We continue to release offenders in a responsible fashion so as not to overwhelm community resources. Within our facilities the DOC provides shelter, nutrition, counseling and healthcare. Many offenders would not have access to these essentials in the community.”

Agency wide, The Department of Correction has taken several steps to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus to include: the suspension of outside visits; wellness checks of anyone entering the building; ongoing disinfecting efforts; all new intakes being placed in 14-day isolation units; and the reduction of inter-facility transfers.

The agency is also focused on responsibly releasing those offenders who are eligible back into the community. As a result of these efforts, the agency’s incarcerated population dropped below 12,000 for the first time in nearly 27 years. In March alone the offender population has dropped by more than 500 individuals from 12,409 on March 1, 2020 to 11,900 on March 30, 2020.

For more information on the Agency’s efforts regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, go to Health Advisories and Information page on the DOC’s website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOC/Common-Elements/Common-Elements/Health-Information-and-Advisories>